

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A three-position safety for a firearm, said firearm having a bolt, a firing pin having a cocking piece, and a cocking piece housing, said bolt axially rotatable relative to the cocking piece housing, said safety comprising:
 - (A) a safety lever being rotatable in said cocking piece housing from a first position wherein the bolt and the firing pin are each in an unlocked position, to a second position wherein the bolt is in the unlocked position and the firing pin in a locked position, to a third position wherein both the bolt and the firing pin are in locked positions;
 - (B) said safety lever having a handle, a pivot point, and detent leg, said detent leg having a first detent aperture corresponding to the first position and a second detent aperture corresponding to the second position;
 - (C) a bore in the cocking piece housing that provides an opening between an end of the bolt and the detent leg, the end of the bolt having an end adjacent to the cocking piece housing;
 - (D) a plunger having a first detent surface to mate with one of the first and second detent apertures on the detent leg and a shaft opposite to the first detent surface;
 - (E) a detent member having a second detent surface to mate with a third detent aperture and a fourth detent aperture on the end of the bolt adjacent to the cocking piece housing;
 - (F) a biasing member to urge the plunger towards said lever and to urge the detent member towards the end of the bolt adjacent to the cocking piece housing;
 - (G) wherein when said safety lever is in said first position, wherein the bolt and firing pin are in the unlocked position, said first detent surface of the plunger is urged by the biasing member to extend into the first detent aperture in the safety lever, said second detent surface of the detent member is urged into the third detent aperture on the end of the bolt, and a gap exists between the shaft of the plunger and the detent member allowing for rotational movement of the bolt relative to the cocking piece housing;

- (H) when the safety lever is in said second position, wherein the bolt is in an unlocked position and the firing pin in a locked position, said first detent surface of the plunger is urged by the biasing member to extend into the second detent aperture in the safety lever, said second detent surface of the detent member is urged into third detent on the end of the bolt, and a gap exists between the shaft of the plunger and the detent member allowing for rotational movement of the bolt relative to the cocking piece housing; and
- (I) when the safety lever is in the third position, wherein the bolt and the firing pin are in locked position, said first detent surface of the plunger contacts the safety lever at a position that is not aligned with the first and second apertures of the safety lever and said second detent surface of the detent member is urged into third detent on the end of the bolt, such that the shaft of the plunger contacts the detent member such that no rotational movement of the bolt relative to the cocking piece housing is provided.

2. The three-position safety for a firearm of claim 1, wherein the biasing member is a coil spring coaxial to the shaft extending between a point adjacent to the first detent surface of the plunger to the detent member.
3. The three-position safety for a firearm of claim 1, wherein the detent member is a ball.
4. The three position safety for a firearm of claim 1, wherein the detent member is a second plunger having a second detent surface.
5. The three position safety for a firearm of claim 4, wherein the second plunger has a second detent surface to mate with the detent aperture on the end of the bolt adjacent to the cocking piece housing.
6. The three-position safety for a firearm of claim 5, wherein the biasing member is a coil spring coaxial to the shaft extending between a point adjacent to the first detent surface of the plunger to the a point adjacent to the second detent surface of the second plunger.